



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Nicaragua Country Brief October 2020



## Operational Context

Nicaragua has been experiencing an economic decline due to a socio-political and economic crisis, which continues to place it as one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Undernourishment has improved, yet the prevalence of chronic undernutrition is 17 percent, and rates are higher in some regions, up to a 30 percent. Additionally, obesity and overweight are on the rise.

Nicaragua is vulnerable to recurrent natural disasters, ranking 21st in the World Risk Report (2019). Food insecurity is closely related to poverty, frequent natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

Agriculture accounts for 17 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and is the primary source of livelihoods for 90 percent of the rural population. Women farmers face higher challenges to access agricultural markets due to the persistence of structural gender inequality in terms of participation in agricultural activities, land ownership and access to agricultural resources in rural areas.

WFP supports the Government's Zero Hunger efforts by strengthening national social protection programmes, fostering disaster risk reduction and food security of smallholder farmers.

WFP has been present in Nicaragua since 1971.



Population: **6.08 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **124 out of 189**

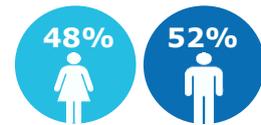
Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **17% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**USD 68.4 m** total requirements

**125,609 people assisted**  
October 2020



## Operational Updates

- On October 31, Eta formed in the Caribbean Sea as a tropical storm. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasted that Eta would develop into a hurricane, making landfall in Nicaragua's Northern Caribbean Coast (RACCN) the first week of November, possibly resulting in significant flash flooding, river overflows and life-threatening displacement of high ground areas. WFP in coordination with the Government prepositioned 80 MT of food, mobile storage units, TEC and biosecurity equipment for COVID-19. As part of preparedness efforts, two teams from Managua were sent to Bilwi and Siuna Sub-Offices.
- In October, WFP supported 1,362 smallholder farmers, including rural and peri-urban families with vegetable gardens. Of these, WFP facilitated 76 farmers with seeds and fertilizer, leading to 180 hectares of maize and beans. WFP technicians also visited 110 parcels to assess staple crops' growth (bean, rice, corn, maize and sorghum) and identified ways to improve farmers' capacities to increase crop production. Likewise, WFP continued to support agricultural diversification by supplying fruit plants, bee kits and honey production training workshops to contribute to income-generation and farmers' dietary diversity, reducing the dependency on staple grains and increasing farmer's resiliency.
- WFP dispatched maize, rice, vegetable oil, cereal, dates and beans to schools in Jinotega and RACCN as part of the national school feeding programme. Pre- and primary school children will benefit of hot and nutritious school meals in some of the country's poorest and most remote areas, extremely vulnerable to natural events, and with a high prevalence of indigenous communities.
- WFP participated to the launch of the communication strategy to communities on disaster risk reduction - jointly with UNICEF and WHO - and the inauguration of the National Institute for Emergency Preparedness (Inpae), during which was praised by the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters (SINAPRED) for the 2020 Peace Nobel Prize recently received.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>68.4 m</b>	<b>46.5 m</b>	<b>4.4 m</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** People in targeted areas who are living in poverty or vulnerable to food insecurity have access to adequate nutritious food all year round by 2023.

**Focus area:** Resilience

**Activities:**

- Provide nutritious school meals to school boys and girls in targeted areas, complementing the national programme, and strengthen national nutrition and gender-sensitive social protection programmes that promote food security.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Populations affected by shocks have access to adequate and nutritious food during and after an emergency

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**

- Provide food assistance to populations affected by shocks.

### Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers in targeted areas benefit from sustainable food systems and have strengthened capacities to cope with shocks, climate change and natural hazards by 2023.

**Focus area:** Resilience

**Activities:**

- Provide government institutions with technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to reduce the vulnerability to food insecurity of populations prone to disasters.
- Provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers to increase their resilience, improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability to adverse climate events.

### Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

**Strategic Outcome 3:** National institutions have improved capacities to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and to incorporate gender-transformative approaches into programmes, contributing to the achievement of zero hunger by 2023

**Focus area:** Root causes

**Activities:**

- Provide technical assistance to the Government in designing and implementing gender-transformative interventions for promoting gender equality and food security and nutrition.

## Donors

Canada, European Union, Government of Nicaragua, Luxembourg, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland.

## COVID-19 response

- By the end of October, the Government reported 5,514 positive cases to COVID-19, including 156 deaths. WFP continues limiting in-person activities and promoting WHO's recommendation among its beneficiaries.

## Gender

- WFP coordinated two experience-sharing events to foster gender equality and women empowerment, focusing on food systems. WFP and FAO in Nicaragua organized a discussion on *Rural Women, Food Systems and Economic Autonomy*, fostering dialogue with rural women about their identity, their role in food security, autonomy and economic empowerment. Participants included personnel from UN agencies and farmer organizations assisted by WFP. WFP also shared the *women's economic empowerment strategy* with representatives of the Nicaraguan Ministry of Women (MINIM), through which rural farmers received tailored-assistance and agricultural inputs. By sharing the reflections of women who benefited from the strategy, WFP can contribute to national programmes on women equality and empowerment.

## Monitoring

- Following the formation of the 28th tropical storm Eta, WFP triggered the *Copernicus EMS Rapid Mapping* to inform WFP and other UN agencies on the cartography of potentially affected areas and estimate the population exposed to Eta.
- An EFSA 72h is also under preparation based on the trajectory of hurricane ETA.

## Challenges

- By the end of October, WFP had 243 MT of food available to dispatch to RACCN for emergency response, however it did not include all food commodities. Therefore some loans between activities were necessary.

## Impact of Limited Funding

- Should the Government of Nicaragua requests assistance, WFP estimates that it would urgently need USD 3 million for an initial response to the impact of hurricane Eta and its consequences.